

**National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2003**

Board Members	Federal Officials
Bill Gast	Dave Henderson, DFO
Gene Stackle	Sarah LeCompte, Acting Center Manager
Marv Sumner	Debbie Lyons, Facilitator
Peggi Timm	Peggy Diegan, Notetaker
Fred Warner, Jr	
Daryl Whiteley	

OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA REVIEW

Debbie Lyons

Minutes

- *Changed page 2 in the minutes to say 100% (instead of one half) of all fees collected are returned to the Center.*
- *Changed Need delegation from NHOTIC/Baker City to attend the Lewis and Clark Association and OR/CA Trail Association convention in Vancouver to promote the area.*
- Minutes were accepted by consensus of the members.
- See corrections and note in the minutes.

Reviewed agenda

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/STATUS OF WORKING PLAN THAT CAN BE UPDATED.

Debbie Lyons

Reviewed Strategic Plan and recommended changes. Draft Strategic Plan (attached) is to be distributed to group for final comments/approval at the December meeting.

DEBBIE LYONS-MARKETING-FEDERAL AGENCIES

- Oregon State Office reviews on a case-by-case basis when printing a new brochure.
 - A form needs to be filled out and then the proposed brochure goes through the BLM review board.
 - If someone other than BLM is doing a brochure, the review board must approve of the content before they will ok the use of the BLM logo in the brochure.
 - If BLM is paying for or spending time on a brochure, the form has to accompany the brochure to the review board.

Sarah LeCompte

- Center is currently working on a new site brochure.
 - Site brochure will have to comply with regulations and will include updated photo's.

- Brochure will contain a lot more colorful images and a lot more people/family pictures.
 - Using an outside person to work up a draft brochure and it should be ready by next spring.
- Last year website was updated.
 - Oregontrail.blm.gov is the new website name.
 - This was done so the internet search engines can bring this up easier than the old address.
- Currently evaluating how advertisement dollars are spent.
- Advertising schedule of events is done all year long.
- Scheduled some special events along with other scheduled events in the area.
- Visitation is down this year from last year-total of 60,200 visitors to date.
- Fee collections are up because of the per person fee instead of the vehicle.
- A lot more families are visiting the Center this year.
- State tourism reported that the price of fuel has affected visitation state wide.
- School visitation has dropped off because of budget constraints at the local schools.
- Continually looking at community events to tie in with.
 - Considering tying in with Starry Nights, a local event.
 - Telescopes brought in by teachers.
 - Compares the sky today with years past.
- Looking for more partnership to help with the tea party.
 - This year the tea will be at the Geiser Grand Hotel.
 - The Geiser Grand is putting on the food part of the program.
 - NHOTIC will provide the entertainment.
- Golden age, golden eagle, etc., gets the holder and spouse free to the Center.
- Exhibit planned for next year on explorers and will feature Lewis and Clark Trail.
- New education guide is out for fifth graders on the Oregon Trail information.
 - This is also available on the website.

ROUNDTABLE:

Daryl Whiteley

- Friday October the 3 at 11:30 AM members of this group are speaking to the Lunch Bunch in Baker City.
 - Talk will include the economic benefits that the city gets from the Center.
 - Hope to improve relations between the hill and town.
 - Sarah LeCompte, Marv Sumpter, and Gene Stackle will represent the BLM at this meeting.
 - Group will stay for questions following the meeting.
- Daryl received a call from the Chamber of Commerce for an article for the local newspaper on the Center.
- Center employees are mostly local and half of the employees are native Baker County folks.
- Center is an economic boom to the county.
- All employees at the Center are paid a family wage job.
- Would like to see an update of vegetation management at the Center be a part of the annual plan.

Gene Stackle

- Requested suggestions on what to take to the Lunch Bunch meeting.
- Would like to have the Center provide the Advisory Board members with free passes to Center to pass out at this meeting and on other occasions as they see fit.
 - Gift shop Expansion Committee requests were sent out to the local businesses and they have expressed some issues about wheelchair access.
 - Would like to have some limited food items to sell in the gift shop.
 - Will come up with a business plan with recommendations of how to expand the shop.
 - Will be up to the Trail Tenders to pay for the expansion

Peggi Timm

- Hate to lose contact with the folks that supported the Center from the beginning and if there is a need to move the area of recognition that the board look at this.
 - If this should happen then this recognition area would need to be relocated.

Bill Gast

- Local Board of Realtors questions how the budget is and is the BLM going to be able to maintain the Center.
 - Are there any cutbacks planned of employees in the future.
 - Looking at Center only and not the Baker Resource Area.
- Bill has been Chair since 1997 and he wants to find someone else to take this position.
 - December meeting is when this will be decided.

Marv Sumner

- He has been involved with Oregon Trail Cultural Trust.
- Also involved in distributing funds from different organizations and making sure that they balance their books.
- There are some limited dollars available.

Fred Warner

- Excited to hear about the planned expansion to keep the Center from getting stagnate.
- Very hopeful that the BLM hiring process will get the right employees for the Center.
- Center is doing a good job.
- Scenic Byways, Hells Canyon, and All American Highways go right by the Center.
 - Want to make sure the Center is a partner so the Center is listed as one of their stops.
- Geiser Grande has done a good job of marketing and BLM needs to work with them to enhance the Center.
 - The Geiser Grande folks realize that anytime the Center is enhanced the Geiser Grande benefits.
 - This is a good partnership that benefits both parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE-

- In the future need to post a sign at the meeting with a specific time for the public comment.

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL

Dave Henderson

- Competitive Sourcing is going on now and is the contracting out of government work.
 - The only change since our last meeting is that the due date moved to March 2004.
 - Contracts are out on the street and BLM is bidding on our own work.
 - Nation wide this is not that large.
 - Statewide bids do not seem possible because of the complexity of jobs.
 - Contractors may come back and say that we did not do a fair study.
- BLM appreciates this Boards dedication to the Center.
- The nomination of the Forest Service representative for this board has to go through the Whitehouse for confirmation, so this will take some time.
- Currently, BLM is having trouble getting other board nominations through the Whitehouse.
- Fire hoses laid out on the Center grounds serve to protect the facilities and also make a visible statement to the public about fire preparedness.
 - The Fire Plan for the Center is currently being worked on.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

